THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019

AJC.com

$2.00

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Credible. Compelling. Complete.

SUNNY
High: 49
Low: 29
0% chance of rain

Friday: Partly cloudy, 51/30
Sat.: Showers late, 47/40
Sun.: Scattered rain, 49/41

Complete weather: B10

TOP NATIONAL STORY IMPEACHMENT

DIVIDED HOUSE IMPEACHES TRUMP

Republicans: Move is partisan campaign to overturn 2016 election result.

Democrats: We are protecting nation against ongoing abuse of power.

As the House of Representatives voted on impeachment Wednesday night, President Donald Trump took the stage at a Christmas-themed campaign rally in Battle Creek, Michigan. ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi said of the proceedings she was "solemnly and sadly" opening the debate. GETTY IMAGES

THE PRESIDENT'S REACTION

President calls process 'assault on America'

By Darlene Superville, Zeke Miller and Jill Colvin
Associated Press

BATTLE CREEK, MICH. — President Donald Trump rallied supporters in Michigan on Wednesday night as the House voted to impeach him, declaring, "It doesn't really feel like we're being impeached."

Trump took the stage just minutes before the House of Representatives approved the articles of impeachment.

Trump emerged from a mock fireplace at the Christmas-themed rally as the debate in Washington was underway. He took time to praise "the miracle of Christmas, the greatness of America and the glory of God," even as he criticized Democrats, accusing the "radical left in Congress" of being "consumed with envy and hate and rage."

Reaction continued on **A10**

Balanced coverage

Today's articles present extensive comments from both sides: House Democrats defending the vote, and responses from President Donald Trump and his GOP supporters.

THE HOUSE'S DECISION

Case now moves to Senate after party-line vote

ALSO INSIDE
» **Senate trial:** Beyond a few basics, much will depend on rules set in advance, **A11**

By Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump was impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday night, becoming only the third American chief executive to be formally charged under the Constitution's remedy for high crimes and misdemeanors.

The historic vote split along party lines over the charges that the 45th president abused the power of his office by enlisting a foreign government to investigate a political rival ahead of the 2020 election. The House then approved a second charge, that he obstructed Congress in its investigation.

The votes were 230 for impeachment and 197 against on the first count, 229-198 on the second. Georgia lawmakers voted along party lines.

Impeach continued on **A10**

AJC CONTINUING COVERAGE AIR QUALITY

Firm gets Ga. notice of violation for toxic gas emissions

BD AIR SAMPLING

- From Nov. 21-22, the average concentration of ethylene oxide in the warehouse was measured at 777 micrograms per cubic meter.
- From Dec. 4-5, it was 667. The federal government says that long-term exposure to concentrations over 0.02 micrograms per cubic meter poses unacceptable cancer risk.

Ethylene oxide from warehouse exceeds limits, regulators say.

By Meris Lutz
mlutz@ajc.com

State regulators issued a notice of violation Wednesday to a Newton County sterilization plant after air sampling showed its offsite warehouse could be emitting 5,600 pounds a year of ethylene oxide, a carcinogenic gas.

Becton Dickinson of Covington is one of several facilities across the state that are legally permitted to use ethylene oxide to sterilize medical equipment. Its warehouse is used to store sterilized devices and is a separate facility about a mile and a half from the company's main sterilization building.

The notice from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division said BD's warehouse emissions are so high that the company should have obtained a permit for its operations there.

The notice calls on the company to comply with a list of remedial actions, including effectively suspending operations at the warehouse for new product from Dec. 23 to Jan. 6.

It also seeks regular air monitoring at nearby residences and the closest school.

Gas continued on **A12**

METRO, B1

Senate panel rebuffs felon voting rights

Inaction irks those in voting rights groups at meeting.

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